

Environment & Energy Commission

City of Columbia & Boone County

Daniel Boone Building, Third Floor Conference Room

Minutes of Tuesday 26 June 2007

Present: Norm Lenhardt, Frank Cunningham, Teresa Hunter, Jean Sax, Alyce Turner, Bob Walters, Kip Kendrick, Barbara Buffaloe

Absent: David Brodsky, John Miles

City Staff Liaison: Stephanie Brown

1. Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. Agenda. Walter moved to approve the agenda without changes. Sax seconded.
3. Minutes. Sax made a change to item #4 and #5. Walter moved to approve the minutes with changes. Sax seconded.
4. Tree Ordinance. Cunningham wanted to discuss the specific purpose of looking at the tree ordinance. Mr. Dasho sent an e-mail to Brown explaining that the Council wanted the E&E to examine the tree ordinance for any “loopholes” where the tree ordinance could be misused to the developers’ advantage and develop some ideas to stop this.
5. Chris Starbuck of the MU Plant Science Department was invited as a guest speaker to discuss xeriscaping and plant selections. He started with a discussion on types of plants that are less water intensive. He handed out a list of websites that listed types of trees and their specifications. Starbuck mentioned that there were techniques for using trees for storm water management that could be an xeriscaping alternative. He said 50% of residential water is used for landscaping. Starbuck explained that the term xeriscaping came from Denver because of their need to consider their dry climate and its affect on plant life. He gave some common sense principles for xeriscaping:
 1. When planting, the landscaping should be a design for water conservation and beauty from the start.
 2. Create practical turf area that is manageable in size and shape.
 3. Select low water plants.
 4. Use soil amendments like compost or soil manure to move water for infiltration.
 5. Use mulch; it keeps the soil cool and conserves moisture.
 6. Irrigate efficiently with a properly designed system. Apply the right amount at the right time
 7. Maintain the landscape property by mowing, weeding, pruning and fertilizing.

Starbuck showed some more examples of xeriscaping. He suggested having a website available that shows the best trees and plants for this method and mentioned the Grow Native website that shows the water requirements for different types of trees and plants. He said the list of recommended plants in the ordinance should be explained and that the availability of the plants should be taken into consideration. It was also suggested that a separate list that contains trees and plants that use less water be made available. He mentioned Columbia’s

xeriscaping which includes Twin Lakes and Trailhead Park at Flat Branch. Starbuck said Portland, Oregon is experimenting with planters that have drainage systems underneath for stormwater management. Walters said there was talk of planting trees downtown where the awnings used to be. He suggested having a group of trees planted in a pit. Starbuck mentioned the use of uncompacted soil and suspended concrete.

6. Walters asked what exactly the e-mail that was sent by Dan Dasho said. Brown explained that the Council wanted the E&E to examine the tree ordinance for areas that could be misused to aide a developer in passing inspection. Sax and Kendrick worked with Karl Skala on the tree ordinance. Sax suggested incorporating a draft letter to the Council. She said she had a letter that was previously written regarding the tree ordinance. She said Skala was looking at permits and precautions. Sax recommended that the fines for violating the tree ordinance be significant. Cunningham clarified the mission by saying the E&E will identify issues then put them into recommendations. Kendrick said Karl's biggest issue with the ordinance was that it is hard to identify what the land looked like before development because the land isn't inspected until after some construction has taken place. Brown said she would send the e-mail to Cunningham. Walter said there should be a routine check with the city arborist on climate forest.
7. Website updates, Commission Vacancies and Renewals. Cunningham looked at the website for Boards and Commissions. Brown said she would make sure the E&E site is up to date.
8. Water and Light CO2 Emissions Report Status. Brown said it is going to Council and then will be approved for public distribution.
9. E&E Annual Report. Cunningham would like to see something produced for the past year. Sax said she is finishing the draft from 2006 and collecting items from Skala. Cunningham suggested an outline of what was done for one year. Sax said Skala has all of the letters sent to Council on a disk, and she will retrieve them. Brown will coordinate the minutes from 2006.
10. E&E Topics to Focus on. Cunningham suggested asking the City Council and Boone County Commission what topics should be the area of focus and possibly sending a letter of topics to mark which are most important. It was also suggested to use the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement as a guide. Cunningham said he will draft a letter.
11. Visioning Update. Cunningham explained that there were three subgroups: Environmental Equality, Resource Conservation, and Energy Efficiency. Buffaloe asked if the visioning groups are only for new developments. Cunningham explained that it is for the city and that there were several visioning topics. Walter suggested having an annual report card to grade the city on how it is doing with achieving the goals. Turner said occasionally the Chair or officer of a topic group would attend the Council meeting and present some of the material that was being discussed at the meetings.
12. Lenhardt's meeting with the City Manager. Lenhardt said the meeting with Bill Watkins, City Manager did not take place.
13. Comments of Visitors. A member of the Visioning Group said he would be interested in serving on the E&E Commission. He said one of his group's recommendations is for EPA to incorporate these ways of planning on the city and county level. Cunningham also said another goal was zero waste of primary

and secondary energy sources. He read the goal statements and strategies of resource subgroups.

14. Clean Air Issues. Turner said there is a special promotion happening right now to support the smoking ban. Eat at any Columbia restaurant on Tuesday night and register the receipt online and be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift certificate.
15. Cunningham said he will not be at next month's meeting and will send his draft letter to Brown.
16. Walter said the opening of the wind power farm has been postponed until January because of agreement discrepancies between AECI and MISO.
17. Kendrick asked if the E&E wanted to be involved in the Sustainable Living Fair on September 15. Sax suggested having a display on what LEED is with information possibly provided by Buffalo.
18. Brown said the Columbia Water and Light offices have moved to 105 E. Ash St.
19. Solar Home Tours. Sax said Tom Moran has a completely solar powered home that can possibly be a tour site.
20. Tony St. Romaine, the project manager for the Daniel Boone Building renovations may be a speaker for the July or August meeting.
21. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Prepared by: Stephanie Brown, City Staff Liaison